

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 7-15, and 19-24 remain pending. Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 19 are amended. Please cancel claims 5, 6, 17 and 18.

The Examiner indicated in the final Office Action that claims 6, 7 and 18-22 are objected to as being dependent from unallowed parent claims but that they would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all the limitations of their respective parent claims. Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestions in this regard.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 6. The Examiner indicated that claim 6 recites patentable subject matter. The subject matter of intervening claim 5 also is imported into claim 1 by amendment. (Claim 4 was previously canceled.) The base claim, claim 1, thereby incorporates the subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be patentable, and thus is placed in condition for allowance. Claims 5 and 6 are canceled.

Claim 7 is amended solely to adjust its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 6. Claims 10 and 11 are amended solely to adjust their dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 5.

Claim 14, an independent claim, is amended to include the subject matter of claim 18. The Examiner indicated that claim 18 recites patentable subject matter. The subject matter of intervening claim 17 also is imported into claim 14 by amendment. (Claim 16 was previously canceled.) The base claim, claim 14, thereby incorporates subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be patentable, and thus is placed in condition for allowance. Claims 17 and 18 are canceled.

Claim 19 is amended solely to adjust its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 18.

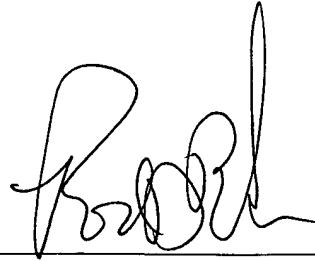
The Applicants have adopted the suggestions of the Examiner to place the claims in condition for allowance. No additional search or examination is required. Reconsideration of the claims rejections and objections, and prompt allowance, is respectfully solicited.

The number of claims is reduced, and the total number of independent claims remains less than four, so no additional claims fee is believed to be due. Nevertheless, authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod D. Baker', written over a horizontal line.

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